bringing out specific cases of excess profits to their notice. Central Government has so far notified 36 Cost Accounting Record Rules covering 54 industrial products. The work of prescribing cost accounting record rules for more industries is a continuous exercise.

Central Government can direct the company whose cost accounts have been audited to circulate to its shareholders, alongwith notice of Annual General Meeting to be held for the first time after the submission of such report, the whole or such part of the said report as it may specify in this behalf. The cost audit report is not circulated to the Members of the Public.

(c) During the year 1990-91, cost audit was ordered on 604 companies. Of the cost audit reports received so far, 200 have been reviewed. Instances of excess profit, irregularities in import of raw materials, payment of Duty Draw Back etc. wherever noticed as a part of review have been communicated to the administrative and other concerned Ministries for appropriate action.

(d) In addition to taking action under Cost Accounting Record Rules, the Government can also take steps to ensure that producers and manufacturers do not exploit the consumers at large by charging undue profit, by making a reference to MRTP Commission under Section 10 (a) (ii) of MRTP Act in regard to restrictive trade practice (RTP). Restrictive Trade Practice has been defined under section 2 (o) which includes a trade practice which has the effect of preventing, restricting or distorting competition in any manner and in particular by bringing about manipulation of prices so as to impose on consumers unjustified costs or restrictions. Government can also make a reference against Monopolistic Practice under section 31 (1) and take such necessary steps as thought fit to remedy or prevent mischief which may result from such monopolistic practices.

Central Government can also appoint Inspectors under Section 44 of the MRTP Act to conduct an investigation into Restrictive of Monopolistic Practices indulged in by an undertaking, and after taking into consideration investigation report take action to prevent exploitation of consumers by the undertaking.

Review of Import Policy on Books

*141. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on August, 23, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 4126 and state:

(a) whether the import policy on books has been recently reviewed and any corrective measures taken to facilitate import of specialised scholarly books, classics and teaching aids;

(b) whether the recent hike in money deposits to be made by prospective importers is prohibitive for smaller booksellers; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the money-deposit for booksellers who may be accredited by Universities and educational and research institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Import of educational/Scientific and technical books on the subjects as specified and teaching aids continues to be allowed under O.G.L. by the categories of eligible importers. However, keeping in view of the balance of payment and exchange reserves position of the country, RBI has introduced a system of money deposits to be made by the prospective importers with their bankers before opening Letters of Credits. There is presently no proposal to reduce the cash margins requirements for import of books.